

The Wingèd Bull

Monthly Newsletter of
St. Luke Anglican Catholic Church
Augusta, Georgia



January 2015

Epiphany Proclamation 2015

Good Christian People:

As we have with joy celebrated the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and his manifestation to the Gentiles, so through the year we will continue to celebrate the mysteries of our salvation, culminating in Christ's Resurrection on Easter Day. From the date of Easter are reckoned the dates of our other feasts and commemorations, and it is an ancient custom at this time to proclaim the days and the seasons of the Christian year.

In this year of our Lord two thousand fifteen, there will be three Sundays after the Epiphany, until Septuagesima Sunday on the first day of February. On the eighteenth day of February, the day called Ash Wednesday, will commence the great and holy fast of Lent.

On Good Friday, the third day of April, the Church will mark with appropriate solemnity the crucifixion and death of the Lord Jesus, and on the fifth day of April we will gather to celebrate with all joy his glorious Resurrection from the dead. The Ascension of our Lord into heaven will be recalled forty days thereafter, on Thursday the fourteenth day of May; and the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles at Pentecost will be celebrated on the Sunday, the twenty-fourth day of May. The feast of the Most Holy Trinity will be observed on Sunday the thirty-first day of May. There will be twenty-five Sundays after Trinity, until on Sunday the twenty-ninth day of November a new year of grace will begin.

And so through the days and the seasons the pilgrim Church on earth proclaims the paschal mystery of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who was, and is, and is to come, who is the Lord of all time

and all history, to whom be ceaseless praise, world without end. Amen.

“Enter into the church and wash away your sins.

For there is a hospital for sinners
and not a court of law.”

- St. John Chrysostom

Old and New Members of Our Vestry

Mrs. Sam Nechtman and Miss Naomi Williams have successfully completed their terms on the vestry at St. Luke. During their terms, Naomi served as secretary of the vestry, and Sam served as assistant treasurer. Be sure to thank them for their service and ask God to bless them!

At our annual parish meeting in December, Mrs. Karen Elmy, Mr. Gary Hegner, and Mr. Jeff O'Betz were elected to the vestry. Please remember to thank them for volunteering for this service and pray for them as vestrymen during their terms.

Mrs. Barbara Elmy and Mrs. Frances Martin continue on in their second year on the vestry. Frances served as senior warden this past year. Mr. Ted Baker resigned from the vestry in November. He had served as junior warden during his service. May our good God bless Ted, Barbara, and Frances.

Epiphany

THE Magi took the lids from their urns and unfastened their caskets, when they presented the symbols of universal homage to our infant prince.

But when a woman came to anoint the king in his royal city, she shattered her alabaster jar, that she might pour the precious spikenard on his head. There was a sympathy between her action and the approaching Passion: the perfume of man's homage could not be offered to God, without breaking the veined alabaster, the body of the Son of Man. Our incense may rise, like that of the Magi, from unbroken vessels, if we present our bodies a living sacrifice. Yet a living sacrifice is also a sacrifice, and is made so by some participation in the shattering of the vase. Christ, sacrificing himself, joins us with him in sacrificing him; Christ, sacrificing himself, sacrifices us, for he has made us parts of him. We come to offer our homage to Christ, but his star has brought us, and the breaking of his mortal vase has furnished all the perfume of our offering.

-From The Crown of The Year, Weekly Paragraphs for the Holy Sacrament, by Austin Farrer

Father Otwell on Vacation

Father Otwell will be on vacation between Sunday January 11th and Sunday January 18th. So there will be no midweek services or office hours on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 13th and 14th. Please call Fr. Martin at 706.793.2533 for emergency calls during this week.

Creative Christians Photography Class

Mr. Jeff O'Betz will teach a class on basic photography at 10 am on Saturday January 24th in the parish hall.

Photography is all about light. Come learn some ways to control light. Everyone can learn to take better photographs. We all have cell phones that take picture but a real camera still can do so much more. Phones keep improving, but they do not make a good printed image. Consider this class Photography 101: The first class will cover

shutter speed, aperture, and ISO. Be sure to bring your camera so we can go over any questions you might have!

Tuesday Night Schedule Change

Starting on January 20, we'll be moving all of the Tuesday night activities back half an hour, so Evensong will begin at 6:30 pm in the church, followed by simple supper & Bible study in the parish hall at 7 pm. The Bible study will conclude by 8 pm.

“The sensible man, taking into account the remedial effect of the divine prescriptions, gladly bears the sufferings which they bring upon him, since he is aware that they have no cause other than his own sin. But when the fool, ignorant of the supreme wisdom of God's providence, sins and is corrected, he regards either God or men as responsible for the hardships he suffers.”

- St. Maximos the Confessor

About Attending Church

By St. John Chrysostom

Churches are Spiritual Ports

Churches resemble ports in the ocean, which God has placed in cities—spiritual ports, wherein whoever of us takes refuge finds indescribable calmness of soul, made dizzy from worldly business. And precisely as a calm and waveless port offers safety to the boats docked there, so also the Church saves from the storm of earthly cares whoever hastens to it, and grants the believers to stand securely and listen to the word of God with great calmness.

The Church is the foundation of virtue and the school of spiritual life. Just cross its threshold at

any time, and immediately you forget daily cares. Pass inside, and a spiritual ray will surround your soul. This stillness causes awe and teaches the Christian life. It raises up your train of thought and doesn't allow you to remember present things. It transports you from earth to Heaven. And if the gain is so great when a worship service is not even taking place, just think, when the Liturgy is performed — and the prophets teach, the Apostles preach the Gospel, Christ is among the believers, God the Father accepts the performed sacrifice, and the Holy Spirit grants His own rejoicing — what great benefit floods those who have attended church as they leave the church.

The joy of anyone who rejoices is preserved in the Church. The gladness of the embittered, the rejoicing of the saddened, the refreshment of the tortured, the comfort of the tired, all are found in the Church. Because Christ says, “Come to me, all who are tired and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest” (St. Matthew xi.28). What is more longed for than [to hear] this Voice? What sweeter than this invitation? The Lord is calling you to a Banquet when he invites you to church. He urges you to be comforted from toils and He transports you to a place of comfort from pain, because He lightens you from the burden of sins. He heals distress with spiritual enjoyment, and sadness with joy.

Electronic edition of the Winged Bull

If you would like to receive an electronic edition of this newsletter in your email, please email Fr. Otwell at j_otwell@bellsouth.net. Include whether you would prefer to get the electronic and the print editions or just the electronic edition.

Coming in February:

Pre-Lent – Peculiar to the Western Church are the three weeks of the Pre-Lent with its “gesima” Sundays of Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and

Quinquagesima. Out of the sad and precarious times of barbarian Rome of the Sixth Century arose these weeks of preparing for the penitential season of Lent. As such, it is an extension of Lent missing in the falsely cheery tones of modern churches. The Gloria and Alleluia are not used in Pre-Lent, and purple is used.

Candlemas – This is the traditional name of the Prayer Book Holy Day called the Presentation of Christ in the Temple and the Purification of St. Mary the Virgin. This fortieth day from Christmas is when we celebrate the presentation of Christ to the Temple in Jerusalem and Our Lady's purification there. This latter practice of the Jewish Law has its Prayer Book echo in the Churching of Women. St. Simeon the prophet and St. Anna the prophetess greet the Christ child at the Temple in the Gospel lection of the Feast.

Ash Wednesday – This Holy Day of Obligation is one of only two fasts, so we will worship twice with ashes this day. This day is a Prayer Book day of fasting and abstinence, when we should reduce both the quality and quantity of our food this day. But not to worry, for we will have enjoyed pancakes on Shrove Tuesday the night before!

St. Matthias – Our annual celebration of the latest of the Twelve, St. Matthias occurs on February 24th. He and “Barsabas surnamed Justus” were chosen by the Eleven (after the death of Judas) to be chosen by lots to replace Judas. The lot fell to St. Matthias, who was then “numbered with the eleven apostles”.

Embertide – We have four Embertides a year. The last was only during Advent. The Lenten Ember Days fall on the week after the First Sunday in Lent. These days are days of quarterly prayer and fasting for ministry and missions. If you wish for more and greater works of ministry and mission in our lives and society, please thoughtfully consider making an effort to pray and fast with Christ's Body during this seasonal Embertide.

Weekly Schedule

Sunday, 9:30 am Sunday school

Sunday, 10:30 am Sunday Mass

Tuesday 4 pm to 6 pm Rector's office hours

Tuesday, 6:30 pm Evensong

Tuesday, 7 pm simple supper & Bible study

Wednesday 10 am to 12 pm Rector's office hours

Wednesday, 12 pm Low Mass

Prayer list: Betty Jo, Josephine, Teri, Elisha, Joseph, Steve, Lilo, Cindy, Marty, Elaine, Lee, Ruth, Sylvia, Nadine, Laurence, Kurt, Michelle, Bill, Christopher, Joe, Scott, Brenda, Kevin, Pat, Theodore, Aileen, William, Tom, Mark, Linda, Father Frank, Chris, Jerry, George, and Michelle.

Please pray for the repose of: Holly, David, Donna, and James.

Contact Information

Rector's Phone: (706) 513-7294

Email: j_otwell@bellsouth.net

Church phone: (706) 736-7479

Office Hours

Fr. Otwell keeps office hours at the parish. Barring emergencies (or vacations), he will be available on site on Tuesdays from 4 pm until 6 pm, on Wednesdays from 10 am until noon, and by appointment. As always, you may reach him at 706.513.7294 and j_otwell@bellsouth.net.